Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether the Collectors' Conference is held yearly or only occasionally ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It is not being held every year, Sir. Whenever the Government find that there are a considerable number of questions on which it would be useful to have discussion, the conference is held. It has been held annually only for the last three years."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether it is intended to give instructions to or get information from the Collectors or whether it also concerns the public at large: and if it includes the public, whether it will not be well for the Government to let the public know of the proceedings at the conference ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It does not include the public."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know if the conference does not discuss public questions ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not know what the hon Member means by 'public questions'. All Government questions are public in a sense."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" If that is so, Sir, may I know whether it is not necessary that the proceedings of a responsible body like that should be reported to the Government ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The conference consists of a discussion between the Members of Government and the Collectors and I do not understand why the proceedings should be reported to Government."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether any proceedings of the conference are committed to paper at all ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Therefore, it is an informal conference where Collectors come together, have a talk, come to no decision and get away from the place. Is that so, Sir ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think I have answered this twice at least before and I would only refer the hon. Member to the answers given on previous occasions."

Public Service

Prohibition of Government servants from contributing to the All-India Khadi Fund.

* 512 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have prohibited Government servants from contributing to the All-India Khadi Fund ;

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(*b*) if so, whether the Government are aware that the All-India Spinners' Association which control the All-India Khadi Fund is a "permanent organization uncontrolled and unaffected by politics" according to its constitution; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) is in the affirmative, why this prohibition has been issued?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to answer to question No. 518 (*c*).

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"With reference to the appendix, may I know, Sir, if the receipt and acknowledgment of yarn subscriptions for membership of the Congress may not be carried on by a non-political association which acts as an agent for supply of material with which it is closely associated?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"So far as I have followed the question, Sir, I think that is a matter for the consideration of the association."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether in considering the restrictions that have now been imposed upon Government servants with regard to subscribing to this association, they did consider this aspect of it, that an economic attache to a political association may act as an economic attache only and collect that portion of the subscription which is more economic than political?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"What exactly is the question, may I ask, Sir?"

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"I really want to know if the Government did consider the question as to whether the receipt and acknowledgment of yarn subscription by the All-India Spinners' Association were not really in the nature of a fulfilment of its own economic business of getting yarn for its own purpose, but as an agent."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The Government did not take it upon themselves to raise this question but the matter was forced on them by the gentleman who made the reference. The Government only considered the matter with reference to the material that was laid before them, namely, the rules of the association. On reading the rules, we came to the conclusion that it came within rule 23 (1) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules; Government did not make any further enquiries into the matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the supplementary answer given by the hon. Member just now, may I ask whether the Government have, as a matter of fact, received any communication from the All-India Spinners' Association or any member of its executive pointing out to the Government that all subscriptions received for the All-India Khadi or Spinners' Association for this work are ear marked for promotion of spinning and khaddar and that no part of it can be or is as a matter of fact used for any political purpose whatever; if the Government have received any such communication, whether they have considered it, and if so, what their opinion is on their order in view of that representation?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I think I have some recollection of having seen some such communication, but I cannot say what exactly it was."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I therefore take it, Sir, that that matter has not been finally disposed of—I mean the consideration of that communication ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I personally do not recollect it. I must have notice before I can say anything definite on the matter."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Sir, in the answer, reference is made to rule 23 (1) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. I asked the Secretary for a copy of the rules and I was told that it is confidential. May I ask the hon the Revenue Member as to the meaning of that reference to a rule which I am denied access to, which this House cannot get ? And may I also ask you for a ruling as to whether the Government can give an answer referring to a rule and saying to the Member that he will have no access to that particular rule ? "

The hon. the President :—" Order, order. This is not the occasion for raising the point. The hon. Member may refer to it after question time."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I am much obliged to you, Sir. May I repeat my question to the hon. Member ? I am asking the hon. the Revenue Member to enlighten me and this House as to what this rule exactly is and why the Government are of opinion that this subscription is prohibited by rule 23 (1), which is considered to be a confidential rule ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" It is news to me that it is confidential. I should not have referred to it if I had known that it is confidential. I have no objection to lay the rule on the table or to read it out, if the hon. Member so wants."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" The hon. Member will kindly read it out and also give his answer to my question as to how this comes within the rule. May I ask another question ? This paragraph gives reference to more than one rule of the All-India Spinners' Association. The first rule to which reference is made says that this association shall be under the auspices of the All-India Congress Committee as an integral part of the Congress organization. Further, the association declares itself prepared to receive and acknowledge yarn subscriptions for membership of the Congress. May I ask whether the Government object to all these rules and say that because of these rules, the association is a political association or whether the Government object to any of these rules and if so, which of the rules and why ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" The Government object to no rules that anybody makes, so long as they are within the law. There are certain rules which regulate the conduct of Government servants in subscribing to political associations The only question that Government had before them was whether this particular association would come under the term ' political association ' or not. There was no objection to that association framing its own rules. There is, however, a rule prohibiting Government servants from subscribing to political associations so as to keep them apart from any section of politics. It is not that the Government have any objection to the particular rules of any

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association. The Government Servants' Conduct Rule, I find, is of considerable length and if it will be convenient to the hon. Member, a copy of it will be placed on the table."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask one further question, Sir? I wish to know whether the term 'political association' is defined in the rules and if it is not defined, what are the criteria by which the Government judge whether a particular association is a political association or not. What are the considerations in this case on which the Government came to the conclusion that the All-India Spinners' Association, in spite of the fact that it says that it is an organization unaffected and uncontrolled by political changes or political bodies as is stated in the Appendix at page 57, is a political association?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"As to what is a political association according to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, the hon. Member may gather from the rule when he is in possession of it. I may just quote here the material part which is this: 'A Government servant cannot take part in, or subscribe in aid of, any political movement in India or relating to Indian affairs.' As to the second part of the question, the answer is contained in the order published."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"In view of what the hon. the Revenue Member has so kindly read out, for which I am much obliged to him, may I ask whether the Government hold as a matter of fact that this spread and promotion of spinning and khaddar in India is a political movement to which no Government servant should subscribe?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"That is largely a matter of opinion. The Government consider that that movement as defined in the rules of the association is a political movement."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am not asking about the association. The hon. Member will recollect that the question is with regard to the khadi fund. Subscriptions were invited for the khadi fund and the Government have prohibited Government servants from contributing to that fund. I am asking the hon. the Revenue Member to state whether, in view of the rule he has read out which prohibits, as I see, Government servants only from contributing in aid of any political movement, with which rule I respectfully agree, if I may say so, in the opinion of the Government, as a matter of fact I am not asking for the future, they have held in this case that the All-India Khadi Fund is a political movement in aid of which no Government servant ought to subscribe?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"It is stated so, Sir, in the last sentence of the order which is published."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Only one more question, Sir. May I ask if the Ministers also were a party to that order?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The hon. Member is well aware that questions of that nature are not answered."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am very thankful for that answer, Sir."

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Mr. G Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether he is aware that the All-India Spinners' Association is entirely an economic annexe to the Congress and is in no manner politically connected with it?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"I am aware of nothing except that the rules under which the association is functioning would appear to bring the association within the term 'political association'."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"May I know whether this rule is intended by the Government to be applicable to the khaddar exhibition by the Congress at the next December meeting?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"I do not know anything of it, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that an industrial exhibition run entirely under the Congress responsibility next December is to form chiefly of khaddar exhibits and whether the prohibition will cover that case as well?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"That question, so far as I know, has not come under the consideration of the Government. I am obliged to the hon. Member for having drawn my attention to it."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"But, have not His Excellency
11-15 a.m. and others subscribed to that fund?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"The rules do not cover His Excellency and others."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know whether when a political association starts and does a non-political business like famine relief or flood relief, the Government would prohibit its servants from subscribing to that portion of the work?"

The hon. the President:—"It is a hypothetical question."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know, Sir, if the objection is to the All-India Khadi Fund as such or to the fact that the All-India Khadi Fund is administered by an association which in the opinion of the Government is political?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"Reading these rules which were sent to Government and which guide the affairs of the association, it appears to Government that it is a political movement."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"I am not asking that question. May I know if the Government's objection in this case is to the fund as such or that it is administered by the All-India Spinners' Association which in the opinion of the Government is political?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"That is too subtle a distinction for me, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether in view of the statement that he made that representation was made to him about the association, he is prepared to keep this question open and examine it further?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" Government are always prepared to examine further ; Government never keep their mind closed."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" It is news to us."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know if the Government makes any distinction between khadi as it is and the fact that this fund is supervised or controlled by a political organization ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E Marjoribanks :—" I do not understand what the hon. Member means by khadi. I take it that it means a piece of cloth."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member, Sir, whether if this All-India Spinners, Association did not have any connexion with the Congress then the Government would have no objection to Government servants subscribing to that fund ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" That is a hypothetical question, Sir, which has not arisen yet."

Increments to unpassed clerks.

*513 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that in the Registration Department nearly 100 unpassed clerks were confirmed without specific exemption after the issue of G.O. No. 1021, dated the 6th August 1917, and prior to G.O. No. 991, Home (Judicial), dated the 29th July 1918, at a time when the minimum educational qualification for public service was that the candidate should hold a completed secondary school-leaving certificate ;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the fact that such clerks were not under G.O. No. 164, Law (Education), dated the 4th February 1925, allowed to draw increments in the time-scale and that it was due to the fault of the respective heads of offices who failed to obtain the necessary exemption when exemption was indispensable ; and

(c) whether in view of the fact that many of unpassed clerks appointed after 29th July 1918, who are juniors with no better qualification than those who are affected by G.O. No. 164, Law (Education), dated the 4th February 1925, are being allowed to draw increments in the time-scale of pay, the Government will be pleased to allow these clerks also to draw increments in the time-scale ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Government are aware that G.O. No. 164, Law (Education), dated 4th February 1925, laid down that exemption was necessary before certain clerks could rise in the time-scale.

(c) The Government are not aware of the fact alleged. If an unpassed clerk is exempted from the provisions of article 1 of the Public Service Notification he can draw increments in the time-scale.